

Perkins Homestead
East side of River Road,
south of U. S. Route 1
Newcastle
Lincoln County
Maine

HABS No. ME-83

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

PERKINS HOMESTEAD

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Location: East side of River Road, south of U. S. Route 1, Newcastle, Lincoln County, Maine

Present Owner and Occupant: Frances Perkins, 1239 Madison Avenue, New York, New York

Present Use: Dwelling--summer occupancy

Brief Statement of Significance: This structure was built by the Perkins family about 1850 and is an outstanding example of architecture replacing the houses of the earlier settlers. The homestead originally consisted of an earlier dwelling, a blockhouse, a kiln, and additional outbuildings. The house is presently occupied by Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor in the Cabinet of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: Built by and in continuous possession of family. House and land remain in family.
- B. Date of erection: About 1850.
- C. Notes on alterations and additions: Left front room mantel not original. Cornice in right room downstairs not original--twentieth-century addition. Porch added about 1920. Upper left mantelpiece not original.
- D. Sources of information: David Quimby Cushman, The History of Ancient Shapscot and Newcastle (Bath, Maine: E. Upton and Sons, 1882).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
 1. Architectural character: Farmhouse with exceptionally fine brick basement and good paneling.
 2. Condition of fabric: Good.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior:
 1. Over-all dimensions: Two-story main block of house, 37'-7" x 23'-8"; one-and-a-half story rear wing, 40'-1" deep; attached sheds and barn make over-all length of 140'-9".

2. Foundations: Granite.
 3. Wall construction: Brick bearing wall on house; wood frame on attached sheds and barn with wood and shingle siding.
 4. Porches, stoops: Granite stoops. Porch of wood.
 5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys on main house, one on ell.
 6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Simple front door with sidelights. Eight-panel wood door. Flat arched openings in garage.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung windows, six-over-six lights; wood shutters and hardware appear to be original. Wood lintels over window and doors, wood sills. Six-light sash into garret of garage. Top light over barn door.
 7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, asphalt shingles. Wood shingles on garage and barn.
 - b. Cornice: Simple wood cornice. Wood gutter.
 - c. Dormers: Gabled dormers on rear wing of house with double-hung windows, six-light sash.
- C. Technical Description of Interiors:
1. Floor plans: Central hall in house, parlors to either side, opening to winter kitchen in rear wing. Attached shed to the rear.
 2. Stairways: Not original, probably reworked about 1860-70; in central hall.
 3. Flooring: Wood boards, 7" - 9" wide.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster and paper on plaster. Paneling in winter kitchen in ell.
 5. Doorways and doors: Simple wood trim; seven-panel wood doors.
 6. Trim: Wood chair rail and/or wainscot.
 7. Hardware: Most hardware original with house. Glass, wood, and metal knobs. Strap hinges in barn. Tin bathtub and pump in upstairs room in ell.

8. Lighting: Electric--of no importance.
9. Heating: Original fireplaces. Winter kitchen fireplace has oven and hardware. Summer kitchen fireplace oven has wood door. Iron fireplace downstairs, right side, about 1860.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: House faces road, to northwest.
2. Enclosures: Fragments of old fence; new fence (1920) copies old.
3. Outbuildings: Moved from another site.
4. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, Architect
National Park Service
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